

Remarks

Acceptance/formal entry therefor of this Amendment, which, applicants submit, renders the application allowable, is respectfully requested. Supportive discussion follows.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 10-15 are allowable and, also, that the subject matter of claims 2-9 and 17-24 are considered allowable and that those claims would also be formally allowed upon being re-presented in an appropriate self-contained format. Accordingly, applicants have decided, at this time, to cancel the rejected claims and to re-present the otherwise allowable dependent claims in an appropriate self-contained format thereby also placing the outstanding objected claims in condition for formal allowability.

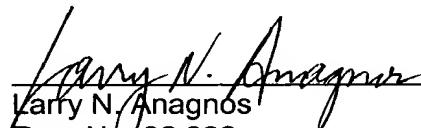
With the above-made amendments, claims 2-15 and 17-24 remain pending of which claims 2-9 and 17-24 are currently amended. Claims 1, 16 and 25-27 are now canceled. Specifically, the subject matter of base claim 1 (now canceled) was incorporated into each of the previously pending claims 2-9, thereby re-presenting those objected claims as allowable independent claims. Likewise, the subject matter of independent claim 16 (now canceled) was incorporated into each of the corresponding dependent claims 17-24, thereby also re-presenting those objected claims as allowable independent claims. It is submitted, agreeing to the canceling of the rejected claims 1, 16 and 25-27 should not be construed as an acquiescence with regard to the merits of the previously outstanding art rejection directed thereto. Rather, the canceling of these claims is being effected, noting that no other issues are outstanding, in consideration of applicants receiving an early formal notification of allowability.

Therefore, having obviated the sole outstanding issue with the above-made

amendments, and since the revisions made to the claims are in conformance with the type of amendments permitted pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116, such as for purposes of rendering the application allowable, acceptance and formal entry of this amendment as well as an early formal notification of allowability of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Dep. Acct. No. 01-2135 (500.40501X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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